

James Whitcomb Riley had the heart of a boy and the soul of an artist. "Mr. Riley" is a personal tribute to the American people's poet, by Booth Tarkington in this week's

Collier's THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

LA CLASSE DEL 1898 E' CHIAMATA ALLE ARMI

25,000 Officine Meccaniche Lavorano Giorno e Notte in Italia Per Produrre Munizioni

AVANZATA SUL CARSO

Le Truppe di Cadorna Avanzano Per 300 Metri a Sud di Monte Faiti e di Gorizia

ROMA, 27 Dicembre.

Tutto il parlare che si fa da un pezzo di pace e di prospettive di pace, con le proposte della Germania e del presidente degli Stati Uniti, non ha scosso affatto il governo italiano che pensa solo alla continuazione della guerra ed alla sua intensificazione a più o meno breve distanza.

Nel tempo medesimo vi sono in Italia 2500 stabilimenti industriali ed officine meccaniche lavorano giorno e notte per la fabbricazione di armi e munizioni.

Sulla fronte dello Stelvio all'Adriatico il Natale e' passato in una vigile attesa, che in alcuni punti e' stata interrotta da improvvisi attacchi momentanei e da violente scariche di artiglieria che erano state abbandonate dal nemico.

Ieri sera il Ministero della Guerra pubblicava il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna circa la situazione alla fronte italo-austriaca:

Si sono avute azioni isolate qua e la' sulla fronte di battaglia delle Alpi e del Carso, azioni che pero' sono state cascate dal cattivo tempo.

Sull'altopiano del Carso, a sud di Monte Faiti, noi abbiamo riorganizzato la nostra linea avanzando per una distanza di 300 metri con un riuscito attacco di sorpresa. In un'ora dei nostri crateriformi occupati da noi in questa zona appena conquistata abbiamo trovato 150 casse di munizioni di artiglieria che erano state abbandonate dal nemico.

LA RUSSIA E LA PACE. Telegrammi da Pietrogrado dicono che il ministro degli Affari Esteri russo, M. Pokrovski, ha invitato nel suo ufficio i rappresentanti della stampa ad ha fatto una esposizione del suo programma per quanto riguarda la situazione internazionale.

FRATERNITY MEN SMOKE. Event at Biennial Convention of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. PITTSBURGH, Dec. 27.—A thousand members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity gathered here last night, celebrating the centennial of the smoker which opened Pittsburgh's biggest Greek letter fraternity meeting—the Biennial national convention of S. A. E., which is this year being held at the station.

TEUTONS BOMBARD BESSARABIA LINES

Russian Positions Across Danube Already Under Fire of Germans

INVADERS PUSH ADVANCE

Violent Rear-Guard Actions Continue in Rimmik and Braila Region

BERLIN, Dec. 27.

Russian positions in Bessarabia are being bombarded from the Rumanian side of the Danube, says a dispatch from the Rumanian front today.

Cities Designated for Rural Banks

Continued from Page One

One hundred and forty contesting cities were disappointed. The announcement of the location of the twenty federal farm loan banks marks the longest step in preliminary organization to be taken by the board prior to the beginning of lending operations under the new rural credits system.

Actual lending is to begin, the board says, in time to give the American farmer funds to finance his spring planting. The board now must take advantage of the provisions of law, permitting it to issue bonds to raise money to give the farmers, in accordance with this provision, from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 in farm loan bonds shortly to be issued.

ALLIED FLEET COMES TO MEET U-BOAT RAIDS

Warships, Disguised as Commerce Protectors, Ready to Prevent Repeated Whalesinkings

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—The presence on this side of the Atlantic of a formidable fleet of Allied warships was indicated definitely today. The vessels are known officially as commerce protectors. They are heavily armed and disguised. For obvious reasons their actual disposition is not revealed, but the arrival in American waters of this newest unit of the British and French Admiralties was made known from a source that hardly can be questioned.

WEE GIRL DIES KEEPING "DADDY'S" GIFT SECRET

Four-Year-Old, in Mother's Confidence, Refuses to Disclose It Though at Death's Door

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Dec. 27.—Bertha Henninghaus, four years old, who was stricken with diphtheria at her home in a farmhouse on the grounds of the Norris town Hospital for the insane three weeks ago, died with a secret which she had kept from her father for weeks.

FARMERS HOLD COUNCIL AGAINST COST OF LIVING

Hundreds Gather at State College to Study Improved and Economical Methods

STATE COLLEGE, Pa., Dec. 27.—The grand assault on old "high cost of living" gained fresh impetus when several hundred staid farmers from all parts of the State traveled here today to attend a week in the study of intensive production and reclamation of waste land.

BOROUGH YIELDS DAMAGES

Shenandoah Compromises Claim for Stream by Paying \$3500 to Paper Mill

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 27.—Judgment has been confessed by M. M. Burke, solicitor for Shenandoah borough, for \$3500 in favor of the New York and Pennsylvania Paper Mill Company. This averted a long legal contest for damages claimed by the paper company because the officials of Shenandoah seized the company's stream of water in the Catawissa Valley.

INDEPENDENCE HALL SUGGESTED AS PLACE FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

The news of Germany's reply to President Wilson's peace note and the proposition that delegates of the belligerent states meet at a neutral place to discuss all phases of the great European struggle prompted Mayor Smith to say he would urge President Wilson to name Philadelphia for such a meeting.

SWEDEN BACKS U. S. CALL FOR TERMS OF EUROPEAN PEACE

Continued from Page One. Intentions in his note, the Westminster Gazette declared.

WILSON TO PUSH PEACE PLANS DESPITE SETBACK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.

Despite a general feeling of hopelessness among German officials over prospects for peace, in the light of Germany's latest communication, men closest to President Wilson believe he will strive to the utmost to prevent the situation getting beyond his grasp.

GERMANS REACH HAGUE FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

LONDON, Dec. 27.

German delegates have arrived at The Hague to make preliminary arrangements for a peace conference in Germany that may, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company today from the Dutch capital.

RUSSIAN PRESS BACKS REJECTION OF OFFER

PETROGRAD, Dec. 27.

The Russian press is strongly backing up the Government in rejecting peace overtures at the moment. The attitude of the Russian Government, taken at the wrong time, and deserves a courteous but negative reply.

END OF WAR FAR OFF, OPINION IN BERNE

BERNE, Dec. 27.

To make known her position, this time would seriously weaken Germany's position, according to a view expressed in diplomatic circles here today.

WITH THIS MONTH'S STATEMENTS ENCLOSE A New Year's Greeting Card

It will increase your customers' good will towards you at little expense. Appropriate Designs—100, \$3.00; 200, \$5.00; 500, \$10.00; 1000, \$17.50, including your advertisement. Louis Fink & Sons, Printers Stationers, 58 N. 7TH STREET (First Floor).

Leg Comfort

Don't suffer from Varicose Veins, Leg Discomfort, Swelling, Pain, or Aching. Laced Stocking will make you happy and easy. Throw away your old-fashioned hose. Buy the new Laced Stocking made to measure, without straps, made in months. Washable and sanitary. Laced Stocking for men and women. Laced Stocking for children. Laced Stocking for the elderly. Laced Stocking for the infirm. Laced Stocking for the lame. Laced Stocking for the blind. Laced Stocking for the deaf. Laced Stocking for the dumb. Laced Stocking for the idiotic. Laced Stocking for the insane. Laced Stocking for the mad. Laced Stocking for the wicked. Laced Stocking for the evil. Laced Stocking for the cruel. Laced Stocking for the merciless. Laced Stocking for the unfeeling. Laced Stocking for the unkind. Laced Stocking for the ungenerous. Laced Stocking for the ungrateful. Laced Stocking for the unloving. Laced Stocking for the unkindly. Laced Stocking for the unmerciful. Laced Stocking for the uncompassionate. Laced Stocking for the uncharitable. Laced Stocking for the unkindly. Laced Stocking for the unmerciful. Laced Stocking for the uncompassionate. Laced Stocking for the uncharitable.

U. S. SEEN IN CLUTCH OF GERMAN PUBLICITY

Ambulance Corps Veteran Fears Peace Pressure on Basis of German Victory

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Major Eric Fisher Wood, of the French Ambulance Corps, writing as an American to the press here, urges the need of more effective British publicity in the United States. Among other things, he says:

"Whatever may be the outcome of Mr. Wilson's peace proposals, a time will eventually arrive when tremendous pressure will be brought to bear by America in favor of peace on the basis of German victory unless a vigorous system of British publicity is organized to combat the extensive and shrewdly managed German propaganda into whose clutch the United States is falling."

BRITISH ARMY EAGER FOR FIGHT TO FINISH

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Dec. 27.

"Never has the British army been so prepared to fight, why should we talk peace?" "You can safely give that as the British army's answer to all peace talk," declared a staff general today in response to questions of what he and his men thought of President Wilson's note.

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NEW GERMAN U-BOATS TO BE TERRORS OF SEA

Six-Inch Guns Will Give Greater Radius of Attack on Merchantmen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Submarines of hitherto undreamed-of offensive power and radius of action are under construction by Germany. The Navy Department here has been informed, it was learned today, that these great undersea units are being rushed to completion in German shipyards and will be put into service as fast as they are completed.

The only example of German submarine warfare to reach American shores—the U-53, which put into Newport unexpectedly after an unheralded transatlantic voyage—will be dwarfed in ability and power by the new types of submarines, the information here shows.

While possessing greater speed and cruising radius than present types, the most striking feature of the new vessels is the fact that six-inch guns are mounted fore and aft. This may result in doing away with the feature of undersea warfare, to which the Administration has objected so strongly since the beginning of the war—the destruction of enemy shipping without regard to international law authorities pointed out today that the new submarines will be able to lie so far away from vessels, and signal them to stop by firing a shot across their bows, that the danger of defensive guns on merchantmen harrying the submarines is gone, or at least, greatly minimized.

Even guns of similar range mounted on merchantmen would not be a great menace.

It was pointed out, as the submarine chooses its position in respect to the vessel in halting before exposing itself to attack on the surface. When lying on the surface, the vessel is hailing, the target offered by the undersea craft is virtually nothing compared with the target offered by the same type of gun, with similar range and accuracy. Attempted to sink the submarine ordering it to halt, the merchant vessel could be destroyed with ease before the necessary range-finding shots could be fired from it at the small, low target.



For This Kind of Weather Your heater must THOROUGHLY heat your ENTIRE home during this weather. The ordinary heater—perhaps only heating one room—is an economic waste and a nuisance to health. Secure perfect protection against the elements—enjoy absolute comfort by installing a FLECK HEATING SYSTEM. All Fleck heaters are dependable. They give the exact amount of heat desired, no matter how exacting your requirements. They are economical, too, warming every room and corner of the largest home at a surprisingly small allowance of fuel. We prove that it will pay you to purchase your ordinary system with a Fleck heater. Write today for particulars. FLECK BROS. CO. 44-48 AND 50 NORTH SIXTH ST. PHILADELPHIA

Quick Prices Will Advance January 15th, 1917. Up to the present-time, BUICK Valve-in-Head Cars have been built of materials contracted for before the almost-universal increase in costs. That Supply of Materials Has Now Been Exhausted. An increase in the price of all BUICK Valve-in-Head Cars is therefore imperative. On and after January 15th, 1917, prices of the various BUICK Models will be as follows: D-4-34, 4-Cyl. Runabout \$660.00 D-4-35, 4-Cyl. Touring 675.00 D-6-44, 6-Cyl. Runabout 1040.00 D-6-45, 6-Cyl. Touring 1070.00 D-6-46, 6-Cyl. Cabriolet 1440.00 D-6-47, 6-Cyl. Sedan 1835.00 F. O. B. FLINT, MICH. Orders Placed Immediately (for delivery prior Jan. 15th) Will Be Booked at Old Prices. Buick Motor Co. Factory Branch Broad and Poplar Sts.

We accept all makes of used automobiles as part payment of the purchase price of a New Buick. Wilkie Motor Supply Corporation. Edw. Wilkie, Pres., 677 N. Broad St. Only authorized dealers in Philadelphia County for the exchange of used autos in the purchase of new Buick Valve-in-Head Cars. Buy now and save the increase in price. We will store your car free of charge until wanted.

The management announces the usual celebration of New Year's Eve December 31st SPECIAL SUPPER will be served from 10 o'clock. Special features and attractive souvenirs. Please Make Reservations Early. Phone Walnut 4790. ARGADIA RESTAURANT WIDENER BUILDING

ACORN DAY Continued Tomorrow TODAY'S sleet storm prevented many of Oak Hall's customers from taking advantage of Acorn Day's special prices. Wanamaker & Brown Therefore make an exception to their fixed rule and announce that all of Acorn Day's prices will hold good tomorrow. Wanamaker & Brown Market at Sixth for 55 Years

Wallets Cigar Cases Cigarette Cases of black silk with gold corners. S. Kind & Sons, 1110 Chestnut St. DIAMOND MERCHANTS-JEWELERS-SILVERSMITHS